

Wolf & Pickerel River Canoe Trip



Participants: Janice and Bill

Total Distance: 52 km with 345m in 2 portages.

Sat. Oct. 7/06: 14 km, 345m in 2 portages. *Janice:* We left Bayfield at 4am and headed up to Port Loring by way of Hwy. 69. The traffic was good and we arrived at my uncle's cottage around 9am. We looked to see if they were there and checked it out so we'd know which cottage to look for from the river. We headed off to Port Loring to check where we would be ending the trip and to see if we could get a shuttle. The lady at Wilson Lake Resort said we go and do the trip and they would make sure we would have a shuttle back to the put-in for a good deal of \$10.00. So, off we went to Wolf Lake and we are on the water at 11:50am. We headed east. It was a bright sunny day with enough breeze to give us a headwind. We paddled Wolf Lake past the site midway on the left and ate lunch on the island site. We met 2 motor boats on this lake and one was a motorized aluminium canoe. Both boats were very courteous as they passed us. Mosquito Rapids was nothing but a little bit of current. We paddled past Pine Lake Resort on Pine Lake. We are keeping our eyes open for deadheads and the scenery is a beautiful mix of deciduous and coniferous trees; lots of colour! We took the north arm in Pine Lake. The 180m portage is no longer on the left and you can either take out on the right before the log barricades or after. We chose to paddle right up to the dam on the right, to the little landing by the steps. It was a short carry up and over the hill and down the deeply eroded trail to the river below about 25m. We then dodged the rocks in the swift current at the base of the dam. It looks like the old trail has been severely eroded and most of it has dropped away. After Little Wolf Lake the Wolf River narrows till you get to The Big Eddy and then it continues on past the Little Wolf River Hunt Club. Dead Hole has lots of large old stumps and deadheads in it. It was here that we paddled up the north shore looking for signs of a 320m portage or trail to Dollar's Dam. There was a small orange arrow on a board nailed to a tree that indicated where the trail was. It was opposite to the island campsite. We started across with our first load at 3:30pm and we lost the trail, but managed to make it to the bay by the dock for Dollar's Dam. We went back for the second load and came out at a different spot and had to search a bit on the shoreline for our stuff. The second crossing was much better and we managed to stay with the faint trail. There are a few large trees that have fallen across the trail and making it a little more interesting. We are done at 4:25pm. The water flows over Dollar's Dam and shoots down through a rock chute. We explored a bit and headed off in pursuit of a campsite. We picked the site on the northeast end of the large island. We can see the site on the next northern point and we can also see the dam at Buck Snye. We'll check that out tomorrow. There is a full moon and we are in the tent at 10:30pm. It was a good day. Seen kingfishers, a loon, ducks, a mink, and we listened to the Barred owl hooting away

for most of the evening. We surprised a beaver who slapped its tail all the way around our point.

Sun. Oct.8/06: 19 km, no portages. *Bill:* We were up at 8am and packed up inside the tent. We had stewed fruit and dumplings for breakfast and were on the water at 10:45am. Checked out the dam at the end and there was extensive cement work holding the water back. We left there at 11:00 and started paddling southwest directly against the wind. It was a stiff breeze which the forecast called for 20km/hr wind, but channelling up the river it seemed stronger. We passed the larger part of Dollars Lake by 12:30 and had a snack in a bay. We got to Ess Narrows at 1:30 and had lunch on a log by the parking lot. It is busy with boats here. We were on the water again and went around The Elbow and headed east. There was no wind in this channel and it was more pleasant to paddle. A Sparrow fell out of sky into the water as it was struggling to get across the river. Janice tried to pick it up on her paddle and put it on the barrel in the canoe but every time she got it close to the canoe it flew away and landed in the water again. I finally picked it up and put it by my feet and we took it to shore. It got scared when I went to put it on shore and it flew and landed on my shoulder. It flew away then and landed in the tree above us. We're not sure if it will continue with its death wish or not but if it was in trouble we at least gave it a chance. We passed the grassy campsite at the east end of Kawigamog Lake just past the long island at 3:30pm. We looked for the campsite on the next point of land, but found nothing good enough to camp on. When I had gone up the hill to see if it was up top I saw a large animal move away but not what it was. When I get back by the canoe Janice said I flushed out a great big beautiful buck with large antlers. We ended up back at the grassy camp site at 5pm. Not a good landing so I went out in the lake to pump water. There is a critter living on the point which we didn't see but could smell it was there somewhere. We heard an animal make a funny hissing sound after supper. When we heard a buck call out from the point where we had seen one earlier and another one answered from behind our camp we figured it must be the rutting season. Janice had a good fire going tonight and the kind of wood she used burned bright. The river was calm and we could see a parade of bugs swimming on the water and all heading west. That was different because usually they go every which way. Some sort of critter made a noise out on the lake. It is 9:30 and the chores are all done and we are heading into the tent. The moon is coming up full and bright again tonight. When I got up in the night I watched two small animals swimming slowly and quietly past our site.

Mon. Oct. 9/06: 19 km, no portages. *Janice:* It is Thanksgiving and we awoke to another bright day. We packed up and had breakfast and I washed my hair. There are lots of black flies and some no-see-ums enjoying the sun and pestering us; I think they have their seasons confused. We left camp at 9:30 and headed east on the Pickerel River. It is quiet on the water as we enjoy the fall colours. We stopped at my uncle's cottage and took our picture to send to him. The cottagers and boaters were quite friendly. We had a snack on the water and paddled on towards Toad Lake. We once again managed to pick up a headwind. We stopped at the campsite on Toad Lake and had a snack lunch. There was another site a bit before this one on the same side. These sites are not used very much. We paddled Toad Lake and started across Wauquimokog Lake. The wind is coming from the north and it is cold. We stopped at Miramichi Island. It looks as if people camp here, but I don't think it is quite large enough. We docked at Wilson Lake

Resort at 1:45pm. The fellow there sent us with his car to do our shuttle. We are loaded and changed and ready to leave at 3pm.

Bill: It was a nice trip. The trees were beautiful in their fall colours. It is not often we do a trip without rain. I was a bit taken aback when we stopped at Jake's Place Diner in Port Loring and bought coffee to fill our travel mugs and they charged us \$4.82 while I am used to paying \$2.57 for good coffee at Tim Horton's to fill up the same mugs.